

RETURN

LENT AT SAINTS SIMON AND JUDE



RETURN TO THE LORD YOUR GOD,
FOR HE IS GRACIOUS AND MERCIFUL.
-JOEL 2:13

RETURN

LENT AT SAINTS SIMON AND JUDE

**SO OFTEN, WE FIND OURSELVES FURTHER AWAY
FROM GOD THAN WE EVER INTENDED TO BE.**

Our Lenten theme, Return,
reminds us that Scripture is always calling us back.

“Return to the Lord your God.” - Joel 2:13

Like the prodigal son,
we come to recognize our need to go home.

“I will arise and go to my father.” - Luke 15:17–18

And we trust in God’s promise of mercy and welcome.

“Return to me, and I will return to you.” - Malachi 3:7

Lent invites us not only to turn our hearts back to God, but to take intentional steps home by returning to the sacraments, especially Reconciliation and the Eucharist, and by re-engaging with the Church community where we are welcomed, healed, and strengthened together.

EVENTS

LENT AT SAINTS SIMON AND JUDE

Pray, Fast, Give Together

Lent is not a journey we walk alone. As we seek to return to the Lord, we do so not only in personal prayer and sacrifice, but in fellowship with one another.

Friday, February 20	Fish Fry & Stations of the Cross
Friday, February 27	Fish Fry & Rosary
Friday, March 6	Fish Fry & Taizé Prayer
Friday, March 13	Fish Fry & XLT/Penance Service
Friday, March 20	Fish Fry & Mary's Way of the Cross
Saturday, March 21	Family Faith Night
Friday, March 27	Fish Fry & Taizé Prayer
Friday, April 4	Good Friday Hike & Stations of the Cross

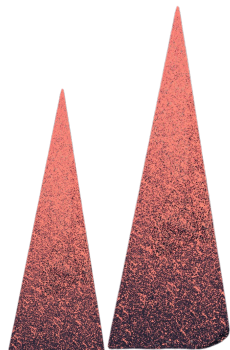
Fish Fry: 4:30-7:30pm

Stations of the Cross & Prayer: 7:00pm



CHECK THE BULLETIN OR
WEBSITE FOR DETAILS
AND START TIMES:


SSJ.ORG



LITURGIES

LENT AT SAINTS SIMON AND JUDE

Our Lenten liturgies are a sacred invitation to return home. Each Mass, Penance Service, and devotional gathering becomes an expression of the call to pray, fast, and give. We pray more intentionally, fast from distractions, and give devotion to the altar—uniting our small sacrifices with His perfect one.

- February 18 Ash Wednesday
7:00am, 8:15am, 7:00pm Mass/Ashes
9:00am - 5:00pm Parking Lot Ashes
- March 29 Palm Sunday
Sun. 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:15am, 5:00pm
- April 2 Holy Thursday
8:15am Morning Prayer
7:00pm Mass
- April 3 Good Friday
8:15am Morning Prayer
Noon & 7:00pm
- April 4 Holy Saturday
8:15am Morning Prayer
7:30pm Vigil
- April 5 Easter Sunday
Mass of the Resurrection
7:00am (Church)
9:00am (Church & Colman Hall)
11:00am (Church & Colman Hall)
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OUTREACH

LENT AT SAINTS SIMON AND JUDE

Lent calls us beyond ourselves. As we return to the Lord, we also return to His heart for the poor, the forgotten, and the weary. Our Lenten Outreach Schedule offers meaningful opportunities to live the rhythm of pray, fast, and give through concrete acts of love and service.

Continuing our parish tradition, the Saints Simon and Jude Outreach Ministry will host a weekly donation drive throughout Lent. Your almsgiving supports local charitable organizations by providing the essential supplies they need to continue their mission and care for our neighbors in need.

Collections will take place before and after every weekend Mass. If you feel called to make a monetary donation, please scan the QR Code. Thank you for your generosity!

For questions or more information, please email Louise Nakamine: lnakamine@ssj.org



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 21-22

ROBYNE'S NEST

Robyne's Nest: Supports at-risk and homeless students by providing essentials. We're filling 900 grocery bags for students without access to school pantries during Spring Break.

Pasta & Grains: Pasta, pasta sauce, mac & cheese box mix, mac & cheese cups, ramen, rice (up to 5 lb. bags), oatmeal (multi-packs), cereal (large boxes), pancake mix, syrup.

Canned & Shelf-Stable Proteins: Canned chicken, tuna, or Spam, canned soup or chili, canned vegetables, peanut butter & jelly, cracker/tuna packs, cracker/chicken salad packs.

Fruits & Snacks: Canned fruits and fruit cups, Jell-O, pudding cups, granola bars, beef jerky or Slim Jim's, pretzels (single-serving bags), trail mix or nut packs (multipacks), crackers (peanut butter, cheese, Cheez-Its, Club crackers, Saltines).

Gift Cards: Stater Bros, Grocery Outlet, Aldi, or Northgate.

The story of the prodigal son reminds us that the longing for home is written on every human heart. Yet in our own community, many long for a different kind of home altogether. While most of us will never know what it means to live without safety or shelter, too many, especially children and youth, face homelessness or the daily fear of becoming unhoused.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 1 ILLUMINATION FOUNDATION

Illumination Foundation: Provides safe, short-term housing and post-hospital care for individuals and families experiencing homelessness who need a stable place to recover after discharge. We're supporting recuperating adults and children with therapeutic and engaging activities to help ease stress, anxiety, and boredom.

- Adult Coloring Books
- Activity Books (i.e., crossword puzzles)
- Children's Coloring Books
- Sketchbooks
- Crayons
- Stencils
- Colored Pencils
- Construction Paper
- Markers
- Children's Scissors
- Paint Brushes
- Journals
- Paint-by-Number Kits
- Canvas Boards (12 x 12 or smaller)

As this Lenten season calls us home to the Father's mercy, we are reminded that true restoration requires more than a temporary remedy. We cannot treat an unhoused person's illness only to send them back to the streets; a hospital is not a home, and recovery requires stability, dignity, and lasting support. Just as God does more than simply patch our wounds and instead welcomes us fully home, we are called to seek solutions that restore not only health, but belonging and hope.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 7-8 CASA TERESA

Casa Teresa: Provides a safe home and supportive programs for single pregnant women in crisis, including those facing homelessness, addiction, or mental health challenges. We're helping new mothers and their babies thrive by donating essential items and prayerfully supporting them as they begin a new chapter—changing two lives at one time.

- Baby Play Mats
- Baby Grooming Kits
- Breast Milk Storage Bags
- Newborn Swaddles
- Newborn Baby Mittens
- Warm Baby Beanies (not crochet)
- Premie Boys & Girls Clothes (0-3 months)
- Newborn Boys & Girls Clothes (0-3 months)
- \$25 Gas Gift Cards
- \$25 Walmart Gift Cards
- \$25 Target Gift Cards
- \$25 Stater Bros Gift Cards

Within our theme of Return to the Father, we remember that coming home is not always easy, especially for a woman whose life is marked by trauma, fear, or deep isolation. In those moments, pregnancy may feel less like a reward and more like a weight carried alone. Yet the Father's mercy meets her there, offering refuge, dignity, and the reminder that she is not meant to walk this journey by herself.

**“Children are a gift from the Lord;
they are a reward from him.”
-Psalm 127: 3**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

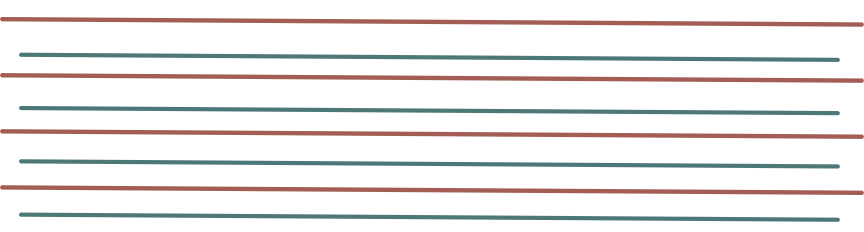
MARCH 14-15

SAVE OUR YOUTH

Save Our Youth (SOY): Provides a safe and welcoming space for teens with tutoring, academic resources, and opportunities in sports, fitness, art, and dance, helping prevent gang involvement and encouraging educational success. We're supporting and nurturing our younger brothers and sisters in Christ by donating needed items to help them thrive and pursue a brighter future.

- Soccer Balls (Size 5, NFHS Approved)
- Canvas Boards (12 x 12 or smaller)
- Acrylic Paints
- Paint Brushes
- Glue Sticks for Collages
- Printer Ink (HP Black 952XL)
- Air Dry Clay
- Amazon Gift Cards to purchase bins for storing sports equipment & art supplies.

Every young person is meant to have a home in the heart of God and in the life of the Church. Our Catholic faith teaches that protecting and supporting high school youth is a priority, because they are our younger brothers and sisters in Christ. As we return to the Father, we are called not only to strengthen our own families, but to help create a community where every young person is welcomed, guided, and reminded that they belong.



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 21 - 22
ORANGE COUNTY CHILDREN
AND FAMILY SERVICES

Orange County Children and Family Services (CFS): Strengthens and stabilizes families to ensure children are safe from abuse or neglect and placed in permanent, nurturing homes. We're "adopting" foster children for Easter by filling gift bags with new, age-appropriate goodies to help them feel loved, remembered, and celebrated.

4 Years Old & Under: Sippy cups, small balls, coloring books, Pop Its (fidget toys), socks, bubbles or sidewalk chalk, Play-Doh, board books, small stuffed animals, juice boxes or Goldfish crackers, and minimal Easter candy.

5 to 12 Years Old: Coloring books with crayons, colored pencils or markers, gel pens, stickers or sticker books, bubbles or sidewalk chalk, Play-Doh, Hot Wheels or Legos, small stuffed animals, hair ties, hair clips or scrunchies, gift cards to Baskin-Robbins or Yogurtland, individual-size snacks, and minimal Easter candy.

13 Years and Older: Black hair ties, combs or brushes, nail polish or fragrances, journals with pens, body wash or lotions, bracelets (for boys and girls), fun socks (for boys and girls), small stuffed animals, individual-sized snacks, earbuds, minimal Easter candy, and \$15 gift cards to places such as Starbucks, In-N-Out, Raising Cane's, or Chipotle.

As we reflect on our Lenten call to Return to the Father, we remember that every child deserves a home that mirrors His love and protection. The mission of Orange County Children and Family Services to strengthen and stabilize families reflects this same commitment, helping ensure children grow up safe, secure, and nurtured.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

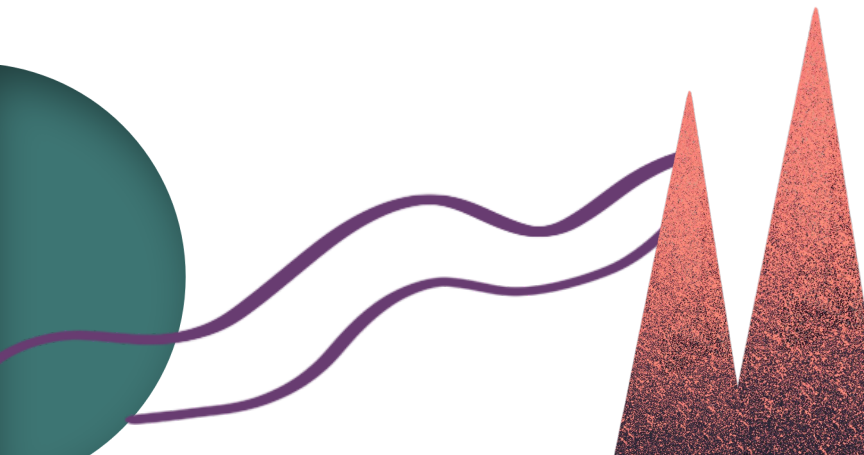
MARCH 21-22

LOAVES AND FISHES

Loaves and Fishes: Serves approximately 300 unhoused and food-insecure individuals and families by distributing food twice each month. We're supporting our neighbors in need by donating essential food items to help sustain them with dignity and care.

- Pinto Beans (4lb bags)
- White Rice (5lb bags)
- Peanut Butter (48 oz)
- Jam (any size, strawberry preferred)
- Canned Tuna (any size)
- Mayonnaise (30 oz size)
- Cardboard Canisters of Quaker Oats
- Boxes of Macaroni & Cheese

As we journey through Lent and hear the call to Return to the Father, we are reminded that coming home to His mercy must change the way we live. Scripture teaches that faith without action is dead. If we are truly returning to the Father, our faith must move us to care for our brothers and sisters in their physical needs, reflecting His compassion through concrete acts of love.



**SAINTS
SIMON & JUDE**

Catholic Community • Huntington Beach



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